

Claims

- [c1] A method for organizing information relating to the interpretation of multiple information elements from at least one reference source comprising:
- (1) forming a matrix having a first predetermined number of rows and a second predetermined number of columns defining matrix elements at the intersections of the rows and columns, wherein each of one the first predetermined number of rows and the second predetermined number of columns of the matrix correspond to an information element and each of the other of the first predetermined number of rows and the second predetermined number of columns correspond to the at least one reference source;
 - (2) determining a reference location within the at least one reference source relating to the interpretation of an information element and setting the reference location to null if no information relating to the interpretation of the information element exists in the at least one reference source;
 - (3) inserting the reference location into the matrix element in the matrix corresponding to the particular information element and the particular at least one reference source; and
 - (4) repeating each of steps (2) and (3) for each of the multiple information elements and the at least one reference source;
- whereby the location in the at least one reference source corresponding to the interpretation of a particular information element can be found at the matrix element at the intersection in the matrix corresponding to the information element to be interpreted and the at least one reference source.
- [c2] The method of claim 1 wherein the multiple information elements comprise patent claim elements.
- [c3] The method of claim 2 wherein the at least one reference source comprises at least one item selected from the group consisting of a patent specification, patent claims, patent drawings, a prosecution history and at least one prior art document.
- [c4] A graphical user interface incorporating any of the preceding method claims.

- [c5] A graphical user interface for organizing and presenting information relating to the interpretation of multiple information elements from at least one reference source comprising:
- an array having a first predetermined number of rows and a second predetermined number of columns defining matrix elements at the intersections of the rows and columns, wherein each of one of the first predetermined number of rows and the second predetermined number of columns of the matrix correspond to an information element and each of the other of the first predetermined number of rows and the second predetermined number of columns correspond to the at least one reference source, and wherein the matrix elements contain a link to a reference location within the at least one reference source relating to the interpretation of an information element and setting the link to null if no information relating to the interpretation of the information element exists in the at least one reference source; and
- a customizable workspace viewable by a user wherein the links within the array can be selectively activated and viewed by the user.
- [c6] The graphical user interface of claim 5 wherein the customizable workspace further comprises a first border, wherein the first border contains headings corresponding to the multiple information elements.
- [c7] The graphical user interface of claim 6 wherein the customizable workspace further comprises a second border, wherein the second border contains headings corresponding to the at least one reference source.
- [c8] The graphical user interface of claim 7 wherein a user can display the reference information contained by a particular link in the array by clicking on one of the headings in the first border and one of the headings on the second border, wherein the link corresponding to the array element is thereby activated.
- [c9] A system for organizing information relating to the interpretation of multiple information elements from at least one reference source comprising:
- a matrix having a first predetermined number of rows and a second predetermined number of columns defining matrix elements at the intersections

of the rows and columns, wherein each of one of the first predetermined number of rows and the second predetermined number of columns of the matrix correspond to an information element and each of the other of the first predetermined number of rows and the second predetermined number of columns correspond to the at least one reference source; and wherein each of the matrix elements comprises one of:
a reference location value representative of a location within the at least one reference source relating to the interpretation of the corresponding information element; and
a null value if no information relating to the interpretation of the information element exists in the at least one reference source;
whereby the location in the at least one reference source corresponding to the interpretation of a particular information element can be found at the matrix element at the intersection in the matrix of the row corresponding to the information element to be interpreted and the column corresponding to the at least one reference source.

[c10]

The system of claim 9 wherein the multiple information elements comprise patent claim elements.

[c11]

The system of claim 10 wherein the at least one reference source comprises at least one item selected from the group consisting of a patent specification, patent claims, patent drawings, a prosecution history and at least one prior art document.

[c12]

The system of claim 9 and further comprising a graphical user interface adapted to display at least one of the reference location values stored in the matrix.

[c13]

The system of claim 12 and further comprising at least one data file representative of the information contained in the at least one reference source.

[c14]

The system of claim 13 wherein the graphical user interface comprises a customizable workspace viewable by a user wherein the reference location values within the matrix can be selectively activated and the corresponding

information in the corresponding at least one reference source can be viewed by the user.

[c15] The system of claim 14 wherein the customizable workspace further comprises a first border, wherein the first border contains headings corresponding to the multiple information elements.

[c16] The system of claim 15 wherein the customizable workspace further comprises a second border, wherein the second border contains headings corresponding to the at least one reference source.

[c17] The system of claim 16 wherein a user can display the reference information contained by a particular link in the array by clicking on one of the headings in the first border and one of the headings on the second border, wherein the link corresponding to the array element is thereby activated.

[c18] The system of claim 9 wherein the at least one reference source comprises at least one item selected from the group consisting of a patent specification, patent claims, patent drawings, a prosecution history and at least one prior art document.

[c19] The system of claim 9 and further comprising at least one data file representative of the information contained in the at least one reference source.

[c20] The system of claim 9 and further comprising a graphical user interface having a customizable workspace viewable by a user wherein the reference location values within the matrix can be selectively activated and the corresponding information in the corresponding at least one reference source can be viewed by the user.

[c21] The system of claim 20 wherein the customizable workspace further comprises a first border, wherein the first border contains links corresponding to the multiple information elements.

[c22] The system of claim 21 wherein the customizable workspace further comprises a second border, wherein the second border contains links corresponding to the

